

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A system for use in facilitating managing a job, the system comprising:

a bid and award application for generating bid packages for a job and for receiving completed bids, wherein the bid and award application stores at least one previous bid that was made on the job and awards the job based on the at least one previous bid;

a job entry application for defining at least one task within the job and determining whether the task should be accomplished by a contractor;

a scheduling application for assigning personnel to the at least one task;

a materials management application for assigning any needed materials to the at least one task; and

an interface for receiving updates on the status of the at least one task.

6. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, further including a pricing application for assigning a cost to the at least one task.

✓ 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim [7] 5, further including a regional contracts application for providing a contract template for use by the bid and award application.

9. (Previously Presented) The system as forth in claim 8, wherein the bid and award application is for generating the bid packages by adding contract work items and contractor information to the contract template.

10. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5 wherein the job entry application is for configuring the at least one task into activities and for chronologically scheduling the activities based on desired completion dates of the activities.

11. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein the pricing application is for assigning labor and material costs to the at least one task.

12. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the scheduling application is for assigning personnel to the at least one task based on worker profiles indicating availability of the personnel.

13. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the materials management application is for tracking materials within inventory.

14. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the materials management application is for assigning materials in inventory to the at least one task.

15. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the materials management application is for determining which materials are not within inventory and generating orders for the needed materials.

16. (Currently Amended) The system as set forth in claim 5 A system for use in facilitating managing a job, the system comprising:
a job entry application for defining at least one task within the job and determining whether the task should be accomplished by a contractor;
a scheduling application for assigning personnel to the at least one task;
a materials management application for assigning any needed materials to the at least one task; and
an interface for receiving updates on the status of the at least one task;

wherein the interface is a billing and reporting application for receiving input from contractors as to completed tasks and billings.

wherein if the billings vary from a billing expectation of the system, the variations are sent to a supervisor for approval, wherein upon approval of the supervisor or no variations, the billing and reporting application prepares an invoice for payment.

17. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the billing and reporting application includes a work order to be provided to contractors so that the contractors can acknowledge acceptance of the work order.

18. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 17, wherein the billing and reporting application is for ensuring that only the work orders that were reported and completed are sent for payment.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The system as set forth in claim 5~~ A system for use in facilitating managing a job, the system comprising:

a job entry application for defining at least one task within the job and determining whether the task should be accomplished by a contractor;
a scheduling application for assigning personnel to the at least one task;
a materials management application for assigning any needed materials to the at least one task;
an interface for receiving updates on the status of the at least one task; and
further including an inspection application for random sampling of the completed at least one task, the inspection application being capable of generating inspection schedules and managing results of the inspection.

20. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, further including a workstation application for providing an interface through which employees can enter their time and completed tasks.

21. (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 5, further including a management reports application for providing management reports and printouts.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for facilitating managing a job, the method comprising the steps of:

- defining at least one task within a job;
- configuring the at least one task into scheduling activities;
- determining whether the task should be accomplished by a contractor;
- generating bid packages for the job;
- awarding the job to the contractor based on at least one previous bid made on the job;
- performing materials management by assigning any needed materials to the at least one task; and
- receiving updates on the status of the at least one task.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [23] 22, further comprising providing a contract template for use in generating the bid packages.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising adding contract work items and contractor information to the contract template.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the defining at least one task within a job comprises configuring the at least one task into activities and chronologically scheduling the activities based on desired completion dates of the activities.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein ~~the further comprising~~ assigning a cost to the at least one task ~~further comprises~~ by assigning a labor and material cost to the at least one task.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein ~~the further comprising~~ assigning personnel to the at least one task ~~further comprises~~ by assigning the personnel based on worker profiles indicating availability of the personnel.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the assigning any needed materials to the at least one task further comprises tracking materials within inventory.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the assigning any needed materials to the at least one task further comprises assigning materials in inventory to the at least one task.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the assigning any needed materials to the at least one task further comprises determining which materials are not within inventory and generating orders for the needed materials.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, A computer-implemented method for facilitating managing a job, the method comprising the steps of:
defining at least one task within a job;
configuring the at least one task into scheduling activities;
determining whether the task should be accomplished by a contractor;
performing materials management by assigning any needed materials to the at least one task; and
receiving updates on the status of the at least one task;
wherein the receiving updates on the status of the at least one task further comprises receiving input from contractors as to completed tasks and billings, wherein if

the billings vary from a billing expectation of the system, the variations are sent to a supervisor for approval, wherein upon approval of the supervisor or no variations, preparing an invoice for payment.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the receiving updates on the status of the at least one task further comprises providing a work order to contractors and receiving acknowledgment from contractors on acceptance of the work order.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the receiving updates on the status of the at least one task further comprises ensuring that only the work orders that were reported and completed are sent for payment.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 22,~~

A computer-implemented method for facilitating managing a job, the method comprising the steps of:

defining at least one task within a job;
configuring the at least one task into scheduling activities;
determining whether the task should be accomplished by a contractor;
performing materials management by assigning any needed materials to the at least one task;
receiving updates on the status of the at least one task;
further comprising performing a random sampling of at least one completed task;
and
generating inspection schedules and managing results of the inspections.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing an interface through which employees can enter their time worked and completed tasks.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing management reports and printouts.

38. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium for storing software used by a computer-implemented system in performing a method for facilitating managing a job, the method comprising the steps of:

defining at least one task within a job;
determining whether the task should be accomplished by a contractor;
generating bid packages for the job;
awarding the job to the contractor based on at least one previous bid made on the job;
assigning personnel to the at least one task;
assigning any needed materials to the at least one task; and
receiving updates on the status of the at least one task.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for use in formation of a contract, comprising:

providing a contract template for assembling a bid package;
transmitting the bid package to contractors to facilitate the contractors in providing an offer for a particular job;
receiving offers from the contractors;
awarding the job to the contractor based on at least one previous bid made on the job;
evaluating the offers; and
awarding the contract.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for use in formation of a contract, comprising:

generating a bid;

sending the bid to contractors to facilitate the contractors in providing an offer for a particular job;

adding pricing and other information by contractors to the bid;

returning the bid by contractors;

retrieving at least one previous bid made on the job;

viewing and comparing bids received returned by the contractors and previously made by the contractors;

awarding the contract to contractor having the most desirable bid.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising notifying contractors that were not awarded the contract.

42. (Currently Amended) A system for use in formation of a contract, comprising:
a template for assembling a bid package to be sent to contractors to facilitate the contractors in providing an offer for a particular job;

a data processor for communicating with contractors including copying, encrypting, sending and printing the bid package and for retrieving at least one previous bid made on the job; and

a comparator for evaluating responses to the bid package based on the at least one previous bid.